

CLAIMS

It is understood that the present invention is not limited to the embodiments described in THE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION but encompasses any and all embodiments within the scope of the following claims. What I claim as my invention is:

1. An apparatus for use with a walker or crutches to suspend a single leg of a human user bent at the knee in a rearward elevated position while standing on the other leg to avoid weight bearing comprising:
 - a. a foot cradle device providing a foot receiving means equipped with a first anchor means whereby adapted to the user's foot said foot cradle device surrounds the forefoot and ankle and said first anchor means resides on the rearward portion of the heel approximately along the axis of the Achilles tendon;
 - b. a torso harness device providing a load bearing means equipped with a second anchor means;
 - c. a load strap providing a load transfer means with a first end and a second end wherein during use said opposite ends of said load strap engage said first anchor means of said foot cradle device and said second anchor means of said torso harness device;
 - d. a breakaway safety fastener incorporated into the length of said load strap providing a means to disengage at a pre-determined load whereby the user can release the suspended leg using the muscles of the suspended leg while standing on the other leg.
2. Said apparatus of claim 1 wherein said breakaway safety fastener disengages at an effective pre-determined load in excess of the load exerted on said breakaway safety fastener by the load of the user's rearward, elevated, at rest leg.
3. Said apparatus of claim 1 wherein said breakaway safety fastener provides a means of incorporation into said apparatus.
4. Said apparatus of claim 1 wherein said foot cradle device is further comprising:
 - a. a first closed loop formed from a first flexible, elongated member with a means to adjust the circumference of said first closed loop whereby adapted to the user's foot said first closed loop completely encircles the user's forefoot forward of the shank of the leg;

- b. a second closed loop formed from a second flexible, elongated member with a means to adjust the circumference of said second closed loop whereby adapted to the user's foot said second closed loop completely encircles the user's ankle approximately at the shank of the leg;
 - c. a means of integrating said first closed loop with said second closed loop of said foot cradle device;
 - d. said second closed loop is equipped with a releasable fastener;
 - e. said first anchor means of said foot cradle device is integrally attached to said second closed loop;
 - f. said first anchor means is pivotal and whereby adapted to the user's foot said first anchor means is pivotal within a plane of approximately 180 degrees.
- 5. Said apparatus of claim 1 wherein said torso harness device is equipped with a pad adapted to extend over the top of the shoulder and onto the front and rear portions of the user's torso.
- 6. A fastener providing a means to disengage at a pre-determined load wherein the forces applied to said fastener are pull forces applied longitudinally to said fastener body provided by a breakaway safety fastener comprising:
 - a. a first housing member with a first strap holding means;
 - b. a second housing member with a second strap holding means;
 - c. one or more magnets fixedly attached to said first housing member;
 - d. one or more magnets fixedly attached to said second housing member;
 - e. said magnets fixedly attached to said first housing member are of an equal number to said magnets fixedly attached to said second housing member;
 - f. said magnets attached to said first housing member and complementing said magnets attached to said second housing member are in opposite magnetic pole orientation whereby said magnets attached to said first housing member are attracted to complementing said magnets attached to said second housing member;

wherein coupled said fastener provides said magnets in said first housing member in flush coaxial contact with said magnets in said second housing member.

7. Said fastener of claim 6 wherein coupled said first housing member and said second housing member are substantially rigid and non-pivotal.
8. Said fastener of claim 6 wherein coupled said first strap holding means and said second strap holding means are substantially at opposite distal ends of said fastener body.
9. Said fastener of claim 6 wherein coupled said forces applied longitudinally to said fastener body to disengage said fastener are applied at said first strap holding means and said second strap holding means.